

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, The benefits of agricultural land include food and fiber production, wildlife habitat, scenic vistas, quality of life for our citizens, and enhanced economic and environmental benefits; and,

Whereas, Reported noxious weed-infested acres have increased by 20,858 acres in the past year, with 4,363,043 acres of South Dakota's pastures, cropland, and wild areas being infested; and,

Whereas, Every noxious weed-infested acre means lost revenue and additional production costs to our farmers and ranchers; and,

Whereas, Statewide, loss in agricultural production due to noxious weed infestation is over \$140,000,000, which includes \$21,000,000 spent on biennial thistles and absinth (wormwood) control; and,

Whereas, For every \$1.00 spent to control statewide-listed noxious weeds, there is a \$1.35 return in increased agricultural production; and,

Whereas, The spread of noxious weeds is one of the most serious threats to biodiversity, an issue that is only beginning to be addressed; and,

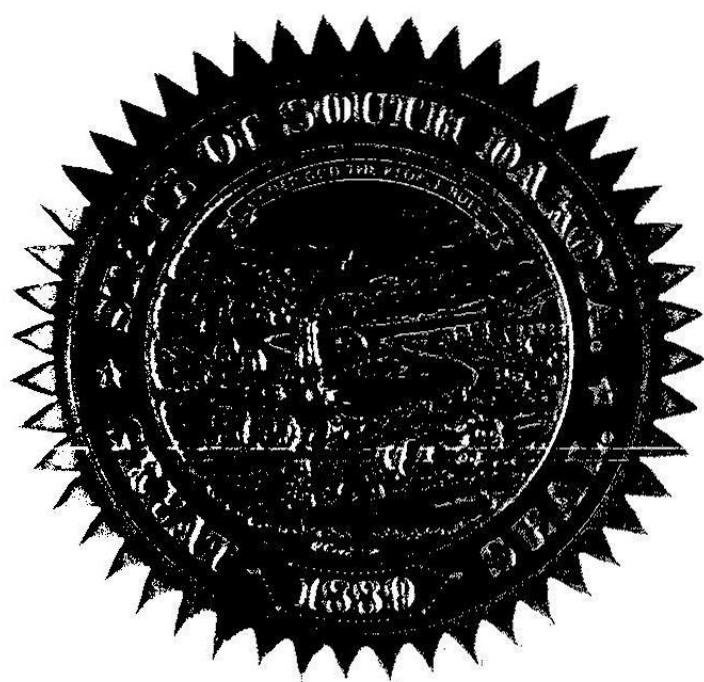
Whereas, The direct economic impact of noxious weed infestation is nearly \$80 million, not including losses from lower land values, additional soil erosion, depleted soil nutrients, declining bio-diversity, and negative impacts on recreational opportunities; and,

Whereas, Budgets are stretched and control efforts are curtailed because of these economic restrictions, and South Dakota cannot afford to ignore this growing threat:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim May 2008 as

NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and I urge all citizens to join me in this effort to avoid the lose of use and enjoyment of our precious land.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-first Day of April in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

A handwritten signature of M. Michael Rounds.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature of Chris Nelson.

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State